

SERVICE.—Nothing could so completely divest us of liberty as the establishment of the opinion that the State has a perpetual right to the services of all its members. This to men of certain ways of thinking would be to annihilate the blessings of existence; to contradict the giver of life who gave it for happiness, not for wretchedness; and certainly to such it were better that they had never been born. (To James Monroe, 1782. F. III., 590)

SERVICES OF JEFFERSON.—I have sometimes asked myself whether my country is the better for my having lived at all. I do not know that it is. I have been the instrument of doing the following things; but they would have been done by others, some of them perhaps a little better:

- (1) The Rivanna had never been used for navigation; scarce[^]-ly an empty canoe had ever passed down it. Soon after I came of age, I examined its obstructions, set on foot a subscription for removing them, got an Act of Assembly passed, and the thing effected so as to be used completely and fully for carrying down all our produce.
- (2) The Declaration of Independence.
- (3) I proposed the demolition of the church establishment and the freedom of religion. * * * I prepared the act for religious freedom in 1777, which was not reported to the Assembly till 1779, and that particular law not passed till 1785, and then by the efforts of Mr. Madison.
- (4) The Act putting an end to entails.
- (5) The Act prohibiting the importation of slaves.
- (6) The Act concerning citizens and establishing the natural right of man to expatriate himself at will.
- (7) The Act changing the course of descents and giving the inheritance to all the children, etc., equally, I drew.
- (8) The Act for apportioning crimes and punishments, I drew.
- (9) In 1789 and 1790, I had a great number of

olive plants
of the best kind sent from Marseilles to
Charleston, for South
Carolina and Georgia. They were planted, and
though not yet
flourishing, will be the germ of that cultivation in
those states.